

We claim:

1. A remote bidding supplement for traditional-style live auctions, comprising:
 - audio/video system means for streaming instantaneously and buffer-free live audio and video data from a live auction site to one or more remote auction bidders having bidding device means for receiving the data and for transmitting instantaneously remote auction bids for each item being auctioned at the live auction site;
 - clerk system means for controlling and accepting auction bids received at the live auction site from onsite auction bidders and from remote auction bidders for each item being auctioned at the live auction site;
 - marquee system means for displaying instantaneously at the live auction site auction bid information, including accepted auction bids, for each item being auctioned at the live auction site; and
 - bid system means for broadcasting instantaneously to all remote auction bidders and to the marquee system means the auction bid information for each item being auctioned at the live auction site, for receiving instantaneously auction bids from each remote auction bidder for each item being auctioned at the live auction site, for transmitting instantaneously to the clerk system means each remote auction bid received for each item being auctioned at the live auction, and for broadcasting instantaneously to all remote auction bidders and to the marquee system means the onsite and remote auction bids that have been accepted by the clerk system means.

2. The remote bidding supplement of claim 1, wherein the bid system means includes bid engine algorithm means for controlling the remote auction bids received from the remote auction bidders for each item being auctioned at the live auction site.

3. The remote bidding supplement of claim 1, wherein the audio/video system means includes audio/video capture means at the live auction site for generating the live audio and video data for streaming instantaneously and buffer-free to all remote auction bidders.

4. The remote bidding supplement of claim 1, and further comprising catalog system means for cataloging pre-auction sales data on all items to be auctioned at the live auction site and means for broadcasting instantaneously to all remote auction bidders the pre-auction sales data.

5. The remote bidding supplement of claim 1, and further comprising data mining means for processing and analyzing a live auction's onsite and remote auction bid history for each item auctioned at the live auction site.

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